

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 304490
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 L-03
CTME-00 /024 R

DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;MLEVITSKY:REH
APPROVED BY EUR;SOV;MGARRISON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
S/CPR, O/CP

-----121087 220802Z /14

R 220005Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304490

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOU, APOU, AFSP, ASEC, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET CUSTOMS INTERFERENCE WITH DIPLOMATIC
POUCH

REF: A. MOSCOW 18175, B. STATE 301966, C. MOSCOW 18260

1. OIC BILATERAL, EUR/SOV CALLED SOVEMBASSY COUNSELOR
KAVALEROV AT 1300 DEC 20 TO INFORM HIM THAT PLANESIDE
CLEARANCE FOR SOVEMBASSY POUCHES ARRIVING SAME DAY AT
1700 VIA AEROFLOT FLIGHT WOULD NOT BE GRANTED AND THAT
SOVEMBASSY VEHICLES SHOULD NOT PROCEED TO PLANESIDE FOR
POUCH TRANSFER. KAVALEROV WAS TOLD THAT POUCHES WOULD BE
CLEARED BY US CUSTOMS IN CARGO AREA OF AIRPORT AND THAT
THIS ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN IN RETALIATION FOR INCIDENT
DESCRIBED REFTEL A. DEPTOFF TOLD KAVALEROV THAT WE WOULD
KEEP CLOSE TABS ON PROCESSING OF OUR POUCHES AT SHEREMET-
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YEVO AND WOULD ENFORCE RECIPROCITY AT DULLES. KAVALEROV
WAS AWARE OF DEC 16 INCIDENT, PRESUMABLY FROM MFA, AND MADE
NO PROTEST OR OTHER COMMENT. DEPTOFF URGED THAT SOVEMBASSY
EXERT ITS INFLUENCE TOWARD HAVING SHERMETYEVO SITUATION
IMPROVED SINCE ITS OWN OPERATIONS WOULD BE AFFECTED IF
PROBLEMS CONTINUE.

2. DULLES CUSTOMS STATES THAT POUCH PROCESSING WAS UN-EVENTFUL. SOVEMBASSY VEHICLES DID NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE TO PLANESIDE AND POUCHES WERE CLEARED AT CARGO AREA.

3. FYI: WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT ACCESS TO AIRFIELD AT DULLES IS CONTROLLED BY AUTOMATIC GATE WHICH RISES WHEN CARD HELD BY AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVE IS INSERTED IN MACHINE. THUS, AEROFLOT REPRESENTATIVE COULD ALLOW SOVEMBASSY VEHICLES ONTO FIELD WITHOUT GOING THROUGH DULLES OFFICIALS. LATTER HAVE TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT IF DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS SOVEMBASSY NOT TO SEND ITS VEHICLES PLANESIDE AND IF THIS IS IGNORED, THEY WOULD THREATEN TO TAKE AWAY AEROFLOT REPRESENTATIVE'S ACCESS PRIVILEGE.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE304490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770477-0427
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771226/aaaaavib.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c30e49fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 18175, 77 STATE 301966, 77 MOSCOW 18260
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 145684
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET CUSTOMS INTERFERENCE WITH DIPLOMATIC POUCH
TAGS: ACOU, APOU, AFSP, ASEC, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c30e49fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009